

STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
OLYMPIA WASHINGTON

September 30, 1964

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The controversy over a proposed Job Corps Camp at White Swan, Washington, near Yakima took a new turn today.

After trailing in public opinion expressions, 278-321, a mail avalanche from 223 supporters Tuesday tilted the scales in favor of the project 454 to 323, John F. Gordon, State Coordinator for the Economic Opportunity Act reported.

And the Yakima Herald-Republic, highly critical of "secrecy" employed by governmental agencies in public contacts relative to the program, has now expressed the opinion that the site near the Fort Simcoe State Park provides a "natural classroom for the type of forestry and conservation lore that the youth camp seeks to teach."

With peace returning to the White Swan battleground, here's a situation report on two other proposed Job Corps Camp sites in the State:

Ford and Springdale residents are in favor of a camp site on the Spokane Indian Reservation land by a vote of 188 to 97. A similar proposition to use an abandoned radar base at Curlew is still ahead in the popularity poll, 17-2.

The Yakima Herald editorial is as follows:

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"THAT'S ALL THEY ASKED

"Even though it is faced with some opposition, it still seems probable that the Job Corps Camp for youths will be located near Fort Simcoe as originally planned, if and when Congress appropriates the money to finance the bill. White Swan merchants and other Reservation leaders have had most of their original objections resolved by the simple element of full information. As a matter of fact, the Simcoe area provides a natural classroom for the type of forestry and conservation lore that the youth camp seeks to teach. The incident illustrates again that people will make reasonable decisions once they have all the facts. Information is an ingredient vital to a successful democracy."

STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

October 1, 1964

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All cities and counties in Washington state are being urged to study benefits which would be available under the Economic Opportunity Act if Congress funds the War on Poverty program before adjournment. Action is expected by this week end.

John F. Gordon, State Coordinator of the program and Commissioner of the Employment Security Department, said that community action organizations should be formed to develop programs which could reduce poverty and improve the economic potential of persons through education and work-training activities.

Reporting on progress in the State, he said that

1. Louis Bruno, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and a member of Governor Rosellini's Interagency Committee, is contacting district and county superintendents of schools relative to the Act, with particular attention directed to Title I-B, the work-training program, and Title II-B, the adult basic education program.
2. Spokane Community College, Seattle Pacific College and University of Puget Sound have reported to the Governor their interests in the work-study provisions of the Act, bringing to 24 the total number of institutions of higher learning in this State now expressing a desire to participate.

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Economic Opportunity Act - add 1

Gordon told the city and county officials that "A community action organization should be representative of the entire community, including government, business, labor, social agencies, health, schools, urban renewal agencies, welfare council affiliates, churches, and, most important, people from the ranks of those the legislation seeks to help: the poor."

"As a practical matter to reduce administrative costs, smaller communities should try and connect local programs with other city or county projects in their immediate area," he said.

"Application for a grant to underwrite the costs of community programs should be addressed to Sargent Shriver, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D. C., complete with details for the administrative proposal for the effective conduct of the project. Some cities and counties are already drafting preliminary proposals," he said.

These funds are available on a 90-10 matching fund basis: 90 per cent from the federal government and 10 per cent from communities. The community's 10 per cent can be in kind: material, services, etc.

"All community action programs should be broad enough to enhance employment opportunities; improve human performance and better conditions under which people live, learn and work," he added.

PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON
WAR AGAINST POVERTY

COMMUNITY ACTION MEANS OPPORTUNITY

"There are millions of Americans - one fifth of our people - who have not shared in the abundance which has been granted to most of us, and on whom the gates of opportunity have been closed."

Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House
March 16, 1964

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 will reopen those gates. It will provide millions of Americans with a new chance to help themselves. The Community Action Programs will permit you to open the gates of opportunity a little wider and a little faster in your community.

What Is Community Action?

The Community Action Programs will provide technical and financial assistance for urban and rural communities to fight poverty. Individual communities will decide how to do the job with private and public resources that will be augmented by this new Federal assistance.

The problems of poverty are a network of social ills like illiteracy, unemployment, poor health and dilapidated housing. To alleviate them will require a network of anti-poverty attacks that are varied while they are coordinated. This combination -- fashioned by local talent and leadership -- is the major aim of the Community Action Programs.

Specifically, remedial reading, literacy courses, job training, employment counseling, homemaker services, job development and training, vocational rehabilitation, health services are only some of the individual programs that can be supported and coordinated with a detailed local anti-poverty program.

In the past, many of these separate programs have been scattered and uncoordinated. A remedial reading program, for example, has limited effect if there is no literacy course to permit the parent to guide and help his child. Both programs have limited effect if the parents have no marketable skills and live in squalor. A program that addresses all of these difficulties in a systematic fashion will truly help that child and his family to remove the shackles of poverty. And this is the intent of Community Action.

The Federal Government will help local communities to develop and support these anti-poverty programs. However, Federal assistance will depend on the community's determination to:

1. Mobilize its own public and private resources for this attack.
2. Develop programs of sufficient scope and size that give promise of eliminating a cause or causes of poverty.
3. Involve the poor themselves in developing and operating the anti-poverty programs.
4. Administer and coordinate the Community Action Programs through public or private non-profit agencies or a combination of these.

In smaller communities and in those with more limited resources, local leaders can begin a Community Action Program in stages. For example, a community might start with a pre-school program coupled with a health service clinic for these youngsters. These would be followed by other specific programs all linked to each other in a coordinated campaign.

All local programs should use the talents of persons living in and affected by the poverty stricken neighborhoods in planning and operating programs. As workers in projects, they could be used as aides to professionals, as recreational and day care assistants and as helpers in homemaker and health services. Some other examples are community research aides, library aides, tutoring assistants, probation aides and family service workers.

Further, Community Action Programs should see that existing local, State and Federal programs are linked to each other in a concentrated drive against poverty. Assistance now available to States and local communities under the Manpower Development and Training Act, the 1962 Public Welfare Amendments, vocational education and the various programs under the Housing and Home Finance Agency all should be joined with any total community anti-poverty effort.

Community Action Programs, in short, will fuse the old, scattered programs while providing the technical and financial assistance to initiate the new attack against the varied problems that have ensnared the poor.

What Kind of Programs Might Be Developed?

Community Action Programs will vary as the needs of the people vary in different parts of the nation. They must be part of a total effort to help people escape poverty, not to make it more bearable. Here are some illustrations that might be part of a Community Action Program:

1. Service and activities to develop new employment opportunities;
2. Providing special and remedial education, with particular emphasis on reading, writing, and mathematics;*
3. Providing comprehensive academic counseling and guidance services and school social work services;

* General aid to elementary or secondary education in any school or school system is prohibited by the legislation, and thus funds could not be provided for general reduction in class size, school construction, general teachers' salaries (as opposed to those of special remedial reading instructors), textbook acquisition, religious instruction, or the established curriculum.

4. Providing after-school study centers, after-school tutoring, and summer, week-end and after-school academic classes;
5. Establishing programs for the benefit of pre-school children;
6. Reducing adult illiteracy;
7. Developing and carrying out special education or other programs for migrant or transient families;
8. Improving the living conditions of the elderly;
9. Arranging for or providing health examinations and health education for school children;
10. Rehabilitation and retraining of physically or mentally handicapped persons;
11. Providing health, rehabilitation, employment, educational and related services to young men not qualified for military services;
12. Providing community child-care centers and youth activity centers;
13. Improving housing and living facilities and home management skills;
14. Providing services to enable families from rural areas to meet problems of urban living;
15. Providing recreation and physical fitness services and facilities.

How Do You Tell What Is Needed In Your Community?

The problems of the poor must be assessed in more than money terms. Simply enumerating the low income families will not permit you to select a priority list of projects. Here are some of the factors you should sort out:

1. The number of low-income families, particularly those with children.
2. The extent of persistent unemployment and underemployment.
3. The number and proportion of people receiving cash or other assistance on a needs basis from public agencies or private organizations.
4. The number of migrant or transient low-income families.
5. School dropout rates, military service rejection rates and other evidences of low educational attainment.
6. The incidence of disease, disability, and infant mortality.
7. Housing conditions.
8. Adequacy of community facilities and services.
9. The incidence of crime and juvenile delinquency.

Who Will Pay For The Programs?

Federal money will be available (1) to help establish Community Action Groups, (2) to assist in developing programs, (3) to support those programs, and (4) for specialized technical aid.

The Federal Government will pay up to 90% of the cost of Community Action Programs in the first two years. The balance, to be furnished by local Community Action groups, can be in cash or in kind, such as services and facilities, to support local programs.

How Do You Begin?

1. Bring together the appropriate voluntary and government agencies in welfare, health, housing, education and employment as participants in developing a Community Action program. Include leaders from the areas in which the program will operate.
2. Assemble all available information on the poverty problem. Identify the extent of poverty in the community and begin to determine major characteristics. List the problems in order of priority.
3. Development of a set of proposals to attack the causes of poverty. Determine what local resources are available to support such programs.
4. Decide on a specific geographical area for the program.
5. Form a local Community Action organization that includes not only government and voluntary organizations, but business, labor and other key civic organizations as well.
6. If technical help is needed in developing programs, ask for it from Community Action Programs, Office of Economic Opportunity.

7. Contact the State Government to determine how its agencies and programs can help and can be integrated into the total local anti-poverty effort.
8. Develop projects in order of importance and ability to carry them through.
9. Apply to the Community Action Programs, Office of Economic Opportunity for the detailed forms to submit your application.

Office of Economic Opportunity
Community Action Programs
Washington, D. C. 20506

STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

NEWS RELEASE
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October 1, 1964

Establishment of a Job Corps camp in a Washington State community will bring \$180,000 a year in business to local merchants, John F. Gordon, State Coordinator of the Economic Opportunity Act said.

Commenting on the likelihood that Job Corps camps under provisions of the anti-poverty legislation would be proposed for Indian Reservations in Washington State, Gordon said that no all-Indian camps are planned. Camps are also planned on U.S. Forest Service and National Park lands.

"Poverty knows no race, color or creed," he said, "and hence each camp will be a cross-section of young men without a predominance of any minority group in any one camp." He said camps for young women were part of the National plan.

The camps would provide facilities for 200 boys age 16-21 where they will receive basic education and learn job skills through a work-training program of a conservation nature.

Indications that Job Corps camps will be officially proposed for the Yakima Indian Reservation land at White Swan and the Spokane Reservation land at Ford have been received from Sargent Shriver, National Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Gordon said.

Corps members will receive a "terminal allowance" of up to \$50 for every month they have spent in the corps. Twenty-five dollars of this amount may be

allotted to a dependent, and the government will match such allotments with another \$25. The trainee will receive daily pocket money (\$30 a month), room, board and his clothing. The corps will arrange for his medical and dental care by local physicians and dentists, in federal facilities if necessary.

Local communities will be fully informed about the establishment of a Job Corps camp in the area. Local public officials and civic leaders will be given details about the conservation work to be done, the youth to be enrolled, and the camp's program. After a camp is opened, it is expected that "open house" programs and camp tours will be arranged.

The building of outdoor recreation sites and the improvement of natural resources can make nearby local communities more attractive to tourists.

The average trainee will spend about a year in the Job Corps, although some will spend up to the maximum of two years. The corps cannot guarantee him a job, but his employment chances will be greatly increased. The placement effort begins at the time a trainee enters the corps. The Job Corps works closely with industry and private agencies to develop job opportunities specifically for corps graduates.

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NEWS RELEASE
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December 5, 1964

John F. Gordon, State Coordinator of the Economic Opportunity Act, said today that Washington could receive \$5,000,000 between now and June 30, 1965, through full implementation of the War on Poverty program. Funds appropriated by the Congress totaled approximately \$800,000,000.

The current incidence of poverty in this State, based on criteria developed for program allocations, is as follows:

Public Assistance Recipients.	126,426
Total unemployment.	54,000
Children Under 18 in families with \$1,000 income.	26,000

The State can qualify for some \$166,145 under adult education provisions of the federal bill based on an estimate of 78,304 individuals in the State age 18 and over with less than a sixth grade education.

The State would be eligible for some \$2,745,579 under the Community Action Program. Gordon said some project development is underway in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Everett, Aberdeen, Centralia, Mount Vernon and Anacortes, and that committees are now being formed in other cities and counties. The estimate of the Community Action allocation to this State is based on the following formula:

Department of Employment Security has already established a Youth Opportunity Center in Seattle which will serve as the focal point for youth assistance in the areas of employment and job-training.

The State Department of Parks and Recreation has developed a comprehensive program for State Job Corps camps and the Department of Commerce is working with the Small Business Administration in the program of employment and investment incentives which would provide loans of \$25,000 to very small businesses.

Other parts of the poverty programs, such as farm and migrant workers aid, are being implemented by federal agencies.

Nationally, 32 states have received federal grants for War on Poverty programs totaling \$35 million and covering 120 projects, Gordon said. Forty-one federal Job Corps camps have been approved. Thirty-one colleges have received work-study grants and 14 Neighborhood Youth Corps-school contracts have been developed.